

Cumberland County Council.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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# REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer,

F. H. MORISON, M.D., D.P.H., &c.,

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School  
Children.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1918.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

EDUCATION (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT,

48 WARWICK ROAD,

CARLISLE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the  
Cumberland County Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my  
Eleventh Annual Report, that for the year 1918.

Necessarily this Report is again of a short and very simple  
nature, indicating only the character and volume of the work  
done, and the results of treatment recommended.

The entire Medical Staff was still absent on War Service  
during the year, but one temporary Assistant was engaged, and  
a modified inspection was carried on. All known defective  
children were examined, and in many of the larger centres,  
entrants and leavers were examined as well.

With regard to treatment, it was exceedingly difficult to  
have any done by general practitioners, owing to so many being  
on war service, and also owing to the fact that those remaining  
were so very much over-worked. As will be seen from the record  
of treatment in the table at the end of this Report, a considerable  
amount, however, has been done in the treatment of minor  
ailments by the Nurses.

## NUMBERS EXAMINED.

During the year under review the following children have  
been examined :—

CODE GROUPS.						
		Boys.		Girls.		Total.
Infants	..	1490	..	1371	..	2780
Other Ages	..	1299	..	1272	..	2571
" Specials "	..	401	..	438	..	839
						6190
<i>Re-examinations.</i>						
		539	..	611	..	1150
Total examined						7340

*SCHOOL CLOSURES.*

Owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases, a large number of Schools have had to be closed :—

Measles .. .. .	100
Influenza .. .. .	79
Whooping Cough .. .. .	32
Measles and Whooping Cough .. .. .	10
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	5
Mumps .. .. .	5
Diphtheria .. .. .	4
Chickenpox .. .. .	4
Whooping Cough and Influenza .. .. .	4
Measles and Chickenpox .. .. .	3
Measles and Influenza .. .. .	3
Enteric Fever (same School) .. .. .	2
Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever .. .. .	2
Measles and Mumps .. .. .	1
Chickenpox and Mumps .. .. .	1
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough .. .. .	1
Whooping Cough and Mumps .. .. .	1
Disinfection .. .. .	4

Early in November Influenza became so prevalent, affecting every sanitary area in the County, that it was deemed advisable to close all the Schools in the County. This closure continued right up to the Christmas holidays.

During the time that the Schools were closed for Influenza, several instances were brought to my notice in which public meetings, such as dances, concerts, sales of work, etc., were to be held in the Schools. In all such cases, when I obtained the information in time, I wrote advising that such meetings should not take place. I have no doubt, however, that meetings did take place in many of the Schools during the period of closure, and I do not hesitate to say that they were greatly responsible for the widespread nature of the epidemic.

In my opinion no School premises should be used for any purpose when the School has to be closed because of the prevalence of any infectious disease.

There is no power to order the closure of Sunday Schools. Many have been closed voluntarily ; many, however, have remained open. I would suggest that when intimation is sent from the Education Department to the correspondent of a school, that a letter be at the same time sent to the vicar of the parish, asking him to close his Sunday School for a like period.

### DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The deaths of 47 children in attendance at schools have been notified to me, from the following causes :—

Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Meningitis		..	..	..	..	..	5
Influenza and Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Heart Disease		..	..	..	..	..	1
Croup and Laryngitis		..	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho-pneumonia following Measles		..	..	..	..	..	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Anæmia..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hæmorrhage of Brain..		..	..	..	..	..	1
Inflammation of Bladder	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidental	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

### EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTIVE PUPIL TEACHERS.

During the year 67 prospective teachers have been medically examined, 54 girls and 13 boys ; none were rejected.

24 were provisionally accepted, 5 on condition that they got vaccinated, 9 if they procured suitable glasses, and 10 provided they had slight ailments remedied. One was deferred for further examination.

### TREATMENT.

In addition to the cases shown in Table IV., under the heading “ Results of Treatment,” 571 children were still undergoing treatment, or were under observation at the end of the year, and are not included in the Table. Owing to the depletion of the Staff it was impossible during the year to keep accurate records, and, therefore, it is not possible to give any record of the number of cases that have been treated, beyond the figures given in Table IV.

The following is the record of cases of Tuberculosis dealt with in Sanatoria :—

Of the two patients admitted in 1916, but not discharged till 1918, one was very much improved, the other was apparently cured.

Of the eight patients admitted in 1917, and discharged in 1918, one was apparently cured, one very much improved, five much improved, and one improved.

Of the ten patients admitted and discharged in 1918, one was apparnetly cured, two were much improved, six were improved, and one was in *statu quo*.

Of the 12 patients admitted in 1918, and not discharged or still under treatment in 1919, four are still in the Sanatorium, seven were discharged improved, and one patient died of Influenza a fortnight after admission to the Sanatorium.

At the time of writing this Report, the complete Medical Staff is again at work, and it is confidently hoped before long that Medical Inspection and treatment of School children will be instituted and carried out on a complete and satisfactory basis. Much lost ground will have to be made up, and I fear that many parents have fallen far short of the pre-war standard of cleanliness which had been insisted upon, and they will have to be reminded from time to time of their duty to their children in this respect. More especially must attention be drawn to verminous conditions of the head, body and clothing.

The important role that vermin play in conveying disease has been amply shown among the troops on active service, and it is to be hoped that the memory of the discomforts caused will remain in the minds of those men who have experienced them, and they will see that their children do not suffer similar discomfort from the same cause.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

F. H. MORISON,  
*School Medical Officer.*

*June, 1919.*

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE  
OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1918.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
				No. referred for treat- ment.	No. requiring to be kept under obser- vation, but not referred for treatment	No. referred for treat- ment.	No. requiring to be kept under obser- vation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition .. ..			5	7	1	2
	Uncleanliness						
	Head .. ..			91	8	66	5
	Body .. ..			12	5	3	—
	Ringworm, Head ..			12	4	3	—
	Body .. ..			1	1	2	—
	Scabies .. ..			20	12	4	3
	Impetigo .. ..			51	12	17	3
	Other Disease ..			6	7	20	1
Eye	Defective Vision and						
	Squint .. ..			207	117	43	40
	External Eye Disease			47	33	21	19
Ear	Defective Hearing ..			8	10	2	7
	Ear Disease .. ..			15	8	—	8
Teeth	Dental Disease			14	60	6	5
	(See N.B. (2) below)						
Nose & Throat	Enlarged Tonsils ..			133	233	24	55
	Adenoids .. ..			24	34	6	16
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .. ..			95	51	9	20
	Defective Speech ..			5	25	6	2
Heart & Circula- tion.	Heart Disease—						
	Organic .. ..			109	63	16	43
	Functional .. ..			41	88	2	21
	Anæmia .. ..			13	59	3	13
Lungs	Pulmonary Tubercu- losis—Definite ..			22	9	14	7
	Suspected .. ..			98	32	30	8
	Chronic Bronchitis ..			5	12	—	3
	Other Disease ..			18	67	1	12
Nervous System	Epilepsy .. ..			2	5	1	3
	Chorea .. ..			1	—	1	1
	Other Disease ..			11	7	1	5
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
	Glands .. ..			12	34	3	21
	Bones and Joints ..			—	4	2	—
	Other Forms .. ..			1	5	—	—
	Rickets .. ..			2	4	—	—
	Deformities .. ..			6	18	2	3
	Other Defects or Diseases ..			23	33	1	5

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
IN THE AREA IN 1918.

						Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
Blind (including partially Blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				5	..	4	..	9
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..								
Deaf and Dumb (including partially Deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				3	..	1	..	4
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf .. ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				1	..	—	..	1
Mentally Deficient	Feeble-Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				15	..	3	..	18
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the Year ..				17	..	5	..	22
		Not at School .. ..				2	..	2	..	4
	Imbeciles	At School .. ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				—	..	1	..	1
	Idiots	.. ..				—	..	—	..	—
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				4	..	5	..	9
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics .. ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				—	..	2	..	2
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				20	..	20	..	40
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				8	..	6	..	14
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				42	..	16	..	58
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				1	..	5	..	6
	Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. ..				26	..	18	..	44
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..				—	..	—	..	—
		Not at School .. ..				—	..	1	..	1
Dull or Backward (x)		Retarded two years .. ..				6	..	1	..	7
		Retarded three years .. ..				—	..	—	..	—

(x) Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From Previous Year	*New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Footwear ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head ..	109	397	506	38	—	146	164	15	—	—
Cleanliness of Body ..	26	30	56	10	—	14	22	5	—	—
Nutrition ..	25	—	25	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat ..	258	501	709	100	—	47	93	248	—	—
External Eye Disease ..	10	59	69	10	—	16	28	—	—	—
Ear Disease ..	45	10	55	17	—	5	16	16	—	—
Teeth ..	17	24	41	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart and Circulation ..	184	78	262	65	—	8	50	82	—	—
Lungs ..	226	—	226	94	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nervous System ..	13	—	13	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skin ..	102	159	261	33	—	142	52	16	—	—
Rickets ..	5	2	7	3	—	—	2	2	—	—
Deformities ..	11	6	17	5	—	—	5	5	—	—
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary ..	66	19	85	23	—	4	20	25	—	—
Speech ..	19	4	23	7	—	—	6	10	—	—
Mental Condition ..	48	—	48	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vision and Squint ..	397	76	473	298	—	37	54	81	—	—
Hearing ..	33	3	36	12	—	—	18	6	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	60	106	166	13	—	42	28	17	—	—

\*The return should show comprehensively all defects found during the year, from whatever source derived, which required treatment.

TABLE V.—*INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &c., OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.*

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child) .. .. .	7340
(2) The number of children (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) .. .. .	1399
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)..	1420
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.) .. .. .	

